

## Latino Elected and Appointed Officials: National Taskforce on Education

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District, California*

July 17, 2013

Dear Representative:

We are writing on behalf of the Latino Elected and Appointed Officials National Taskforce on Education (The Taskforce) to express our opposition to HR 5, the Student Success Act. Representing 13 states, we are a national, bipartisan education coalition of Latino policymakers, the only coalition of its kind composed of representative leaders for the 13.6 million Latino youth enrolled in American schools today.

While we appreciate that the Education and the Workforce Committee bill eliminates some of the more punitive and prescriptive federal requirements under No Child Left Behind, it unfortunately completely abdicates the historical and still much needed federal role of ensuring equity and protections for our nation's most vulnerable students.

This ESEA reauthorization bill fails to prioritize the needs of Latino students and indeed will hinder our public schools in closing troubling achievement gaps faced by these students. HR 5 consolidates the current English Language Acquisition Grant program into Title I. By allowing school districts to shift funds among any of the programs in Title I it no longer guarantees targeted funding for English Language Learners (ELLs). The bill also fails to fund quality professional development to help educators work most effectively with ELLs and fails to better focus the English Language Acquisition Grant program on improving teaching and instruction in the classroom.

We are also strongly opposed to the authorization levels in the bill which lock in \$1.2 billion of sequester cuts to ESEA programs for each of the next six years. Considering that the fastest growing population in our nation's schools are Latino children, and that an unacceptably large portion of these children are from families on poverty, prohibiting any increase in funding through the 2019-20 school year will simply make it more difficult for schools to meet the needs of these students. Freezing funding will undermine efforts to close still unacceptable achievement gaps, provide needed after school and other wraparound services, improve educator effectiveness and increase high school graduation rates.

We are also disappointed that the bill fails to replace Adequate Yearly Progress with a set of reasonable accountability targets and interventions that focus on improving the lowest performing schools and those with the largest achievement gaps. Instead, HR 5 eliminates all federal accountability requirements and fails to require that states and school districts meet the needs of vulnerable populations and improve low-performing schools

Thus, we urge you to vote against passage of HR 5.

Please contact Joel Packer, Principal at The Raben Group and our Washington liaison at (202) 587-2867, or via email at [JPacker@rabengroup.com](mailto:JPacker@rabengroup.com) with any questions, or requests.

United for a Stronger America,



Hon. Ana Sol Gutiérrez  
Maryland State Delegate



Hon. Mónica García  
Board Member, Los Angeles Unified School  
District, Board of Education